

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the Application. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-16 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as amended dependent claims to begin with "The" as opposed to "A". By these amendments, claims 1-16 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claims for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

Claims 1, 8, 11, and 13-16 are independent claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Office Action, the Abstract is objected to for certain informalities. In response, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with a New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. It is respectfully submitted that the New Abstract is now in proper U.S. form and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 11-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0095673 to Leung ("Leung"). Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Leung in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,065,709 to Ellis ("Ellis"). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Leung in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0145321 to Bates ("Bates"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 are allowable over Leung alone or in view of any combination of Ellis and Bates for at least the following reasons.

Leung discloses a parental control television receiver to effectuate a variety of access control functions (see, paragraph [0002], lines 1-4). With reference to paragraph [0125], Leung teaches a user enters a compressed code that appears with the

program listed in a currently published television schedule to block playing of a television program (paragraph [0125], lines 8-13 and FIG. 25, and paragraph [0126], lines 1-5). Thus, the compressed code corresponds with an existing television schedule. Leung also teaches entering program "title" entries or selection from an electronic program guide (EPG) rather than entering the compressed code (see, paragraph [0125], lines 13-19). While it is conceded that Leung teaches using "title" entries, these "title" entries are compared to a current database which relates the channel, date, time, length (CDTL) to program titles such as those contained in television guides (see, paragraph [0057], lines 1-9). Leung teaches the compressed codes and the "title" entries corresponding with existing schedules, such as existing electronic program guides (EPGs) (see, paragraph [0057], lines 6-9) may be utilized for blocking of a television program (see, paragraph [0126], lines 1-5 and FIG. 26 which shows the information from the retrieved electronic program guide information being utilized to select blocking of the television program). However, Leung does not disclose or suggest "checking periodically for a content item corresponding to the particular content reference identifier until

the content item is scheduled to become available, and resolving the content reference identifier into a locator indicating availability of the particular content item, and blocking the reproduction device for the indicated availability" as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in each of claims 8, 11, and 13-16. Leung has the problem that a "movie [that] is not likely to be broadcast on television in the near future, so it cannot be scheduled using EPG information" like taught in Leung (see, patent application, page 8, lines 9-10). It is for this reason that the present system checks periodically.

Bates and Ellis are cited for allegedly showing other elements of the claims and as such, do not cure the deficiencies of Leung.

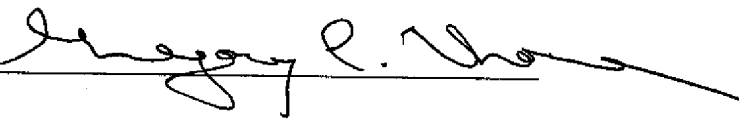
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 13-16 are patentable over Leung in view of Bates and Ellis, either alone or in combination thereof, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-7, 9-10 and 12 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 8 and 13 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims.

Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular, no Official Notices are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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